

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN  
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
WWW.BARRAGAN.HOUSE.GOV  
FACEBOOK.COM/CONGRESSWOMANBARRAGAN  
TWITTER: @REPBBARRAGAN

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1320 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225 8220

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
302 W. FIFTH STREET, SUITE 201  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731  
(310) 831-1799  
701 E. CARSON STREET  
CARSON, CA 90745  
8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Request to Deny Title V Permit for the Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Expansion Project

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I respectfully urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the health and safety of my constituents who live and attend school near Tesoro's proposed Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project (Project) in Carson and Wilmington, CA and deny the Title V permits necessary for this project to move forward. Far from reducing air pollution as proponents claim, the Project would create the largest petroleum refinery in the West Coast and further deteriorate the quality of life of these already overburdened communities. The Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) approved its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on May 12, 2017 even though it contained serious flaws and omissions. The EPA should not consider any permit approvals until the EIR takes into account common-sense air quality and safety standards.

It does not take a scientist to figure out that toxic air pollution will increase as a result of an increase in gasoline production in Carson, although scientists have also submitted extensive evidence showing the project would cause significant harms that were not accounted for in the EIR. It is also very concerning to me that the EIR did not include any baseline information related to acute and chronic impacts from existing operations. This is a serious matter as there have been hundreds of odor complaints from the community over the past decade. The EIR should be sent back to include not only this baseline information, but the potential impacts from the project to these baseline conditions in order to devise appropriate mitigation solutions. Further, the SCAQMD should reject the current Tesoro emissions inventory, given that a separate SCAQMD study found that Tesoro's benzene emissions are 43 times greater than have been reported.

The Project would also increase safety risks for nearby residents, factors that were not adequately addressed in the EIR. For example, the Project calls for the construction of a sulfuric acid regeneration plan which would allow Tesoro to refine its own spent sulfuric acid, yet when

a sulfur tank exploded last year in a nearby refinery, the SCAQMD could not explain how this happened. Additionally, the Project would add 8 new storage tanks, drastically increasing the capacity to store oil and other possibly more dangerous forms of crude oil such as Canadian tar sands and Bakken-fracked crude oil. These factors, along with pipeline expansions and an increase of thousands more liquefied petroleum gas rail shipments per year are magnified when you consider the earthquake risks resulting from being located so close to the San Andreas and other Faults.

I thank you for taking the time to consider this request which is critically important to the residents that call these communities home. The impacts from the Project are not theoretical or abstract but would be the real-life consequences that my constituents, many of whom are low-income or of color, would live with every day of their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette Diaz Barragán". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nanette" being the most prominent.

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
U.S. Representative  
California's 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District